



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jeffrey NICHOLS et al.

Serial No.: 09/900,458

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For: PRIVATE NETWORK EXCHANGE WITH MULTIPLE SERVICE PROVIDERS, HAVING A PORTAL, COLLABORATIVE APPLICATIONS, AND A DIRECTORY SERVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the pending claims as follows.

If additional fees are required, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to debit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before Paragraph 1, insert the following:

--This application claims priority from provisional U.S. Application Serial No. 60/216,886 filed July 7, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-23 inclusive in their entirety, without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute therefore the following claims:

-- 24. A portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, comprising:
a registration option for said private network.

25. A portal as recited in claim 24, further comprising at least one information resource.

26. A portal as recited in claim 24, further comprising a collaboration space.

27. A portal as recited in claim 24, further comprising a registration option for a directory service.

28. A portal as recited in claim 24, further comprising at least one pointer to applications integrated into said private network.

29. A portal as recited in claim 24, further comprising an option for customers of said private network to advertise their services.

30. A portal as recited in claim 24, further comprising an authentication/authorization resource to authenticate a user and determine the user's level of authorization.

31. A portal as recited in claim 24, wherein said portal is accessible through a web-browser.

32. A portal as recited in claim 31, wherein said web-browser can only access said portal through the private network.

33. A portal as recited in claim 24, wherein said portal comprises a set of web pages.

34. A portal as recited in claim 33, wherein said web pages comprise an ability to search the private network.

35. A portal as recited in claim 33, wherein said web pages provide an ability to view invoices/bills.

36. A portal as recited in claim 33, wherein said web-pages provide an ability to view groups to which a user belongs.

37. A portal as recited in claim 24, wherein said search ability can be performed using key words or category created by a network administrator.

38. A portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, comprising:

- a registration option for said private network;
- at least one information resource;
- a collaboration space;
- a registration option for a directory service;
- at least one pointer to applications integrated into said private network; and

an option for customers of said private network to advertise their services.

39. A portal as recited in claim 38, further comprising an authentication/authorization resource to authenticate a user and determine the user's level of authorization.

40. A portal as recited in claim 38, wherein said portal is accessible through a web-browser.

41. A portal as recited in claim 40, wherein said web-browser can only access said portal through the private network.

42. A portal as recited in claim 38, wherein said portal comprises a set of web pages.

43. A portal as recited in claim 42, wherein said web pages comprise an ability to search the private network.

44. A portal as recited in claim 42, wherein said web pages provide an ability to view invoices/bills.

45. A portal as recited in claim 42, wherein said web-pages provide an ability to view groups to which a user belongs.

46. A portal as recited in claim 38, wherein said search ability can be performed using key words or category created by a network administrator.

47. A collaborative application for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, said collaborative application providing facilities for companies registered with the private network to work together, said collaborative applications comprising:

an e-mail function for all registered companies of the private network, said e-mail being exclusive to said companies of the private network.

48. A collaborative application as recited in claim 47, wherein each of said companies has a set standard amount of network memory for said e-mail function.

49. A collaborative application as recited in claim 47, wherein specific users of a company registered with the private network have e-mail boxes withy set memory sizes.

50. A collaborative application for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, said collaborative application providing facilities for companies registered with the private network to work together, said collaborative applications comprising a document repository allowing users to upload a document through the private network to a data store maintained on a server complex in the private network and to securely protect said document.

51. A collaborative application as recited in claim 50, wherein an originator of a document can specify what person or type/class of persons can do access and/or manipulate said document.

52. A collaborative application as recited in claim 50, wherein registered users have access to said document repository application with an individual default limit for storage space.

53. A collaborative application as recited in claim 50, wherein access to said document repository is achieved by registering for directory service through a private network portal.

54. A collaborative application for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, said collaborative application providing facilities for companies registered with the private network to work together, said collaborative applications comprising a store and forward application providing an ability to upload a document to a temporary repository, and to specify destinations for said document to any known addressee in the private network.

55. A collaborative application as recited in claim 54, wherein existence of said document is sent as a message to selected registered users, said message including a

location for said document, and a length of time that said document will be available for retrieval.

56. A collaborative application as recited in claim 54, wherein a sender of said document can specify recipients, recipient's permissions for use, and how long said document is to remain in a store-and-forward state.

57. A collaborative application as recited in claim 56, wherein said permissions comprise download permission, modify permission, and forward permission.

58. A collaborative application as recited in claim 54, wherein a user that sends a document can receive confirmation of receipt of said document.

59. A directory service for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, comprising organizational, people, security, and place information for registered companies of the private network, said directory service being accessible to employees and applications in said companies.

60. A directory service as recited in claim 59, wherein said directory service resides solely in extranet space.

61. A directory service as recited in claim 59, wherein said directory service comprises information about said companies including company names, addresses, and industries.

62. A directory service as recited in claim 59, wherein said directory comprises information about registered users including user name, address, and affiliated company.

63. A directory service as recited in claim 59, wherein said directory service comprises a certificate governing what resources on the private network registered users can access.

64. A directory service as recited in claim 59, wherein users provided with a view of all resources available on the private network and can access only a subset of said resources.

65. A directory service as recited in claim 59, wherein users provided with a view of only resources that they are authorized to access.

66. A directory service as recited in claim 59, comprising a listing of individuals that can be sorted by geography, last name, first name, and zip code.

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REMARKS

Priority data regarding the provisional application has been added to the specification.

Claims 1-23 as originally filed have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 24-66 have been substituted therefore. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If prosecution might be advanced by a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas W. Robinson
Registration No. 32,751

DWR:jljg

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: (202) 508-9100
Fax: (202) 508-9299

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